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The Long Island FISHERMAN

APRIL 19th, ISSUE NO. 14, 1973

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOL. 8, NO. 14 APRIL 19, 1973

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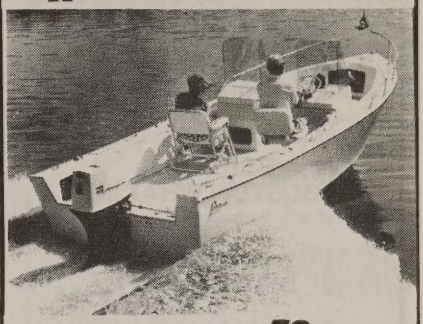
FRONT PAGE PHOTO

This bass took a popping plug cast from the banks near the Wantagh Bridge. It's not what looks good to the fisherman's eyes, but what looks good to the fish's eyes that counts. (See article; page 12). Photo by Dick Mermon.

pro-line



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WOOLNER-LYMAN THEORY

Frank Woolner and Hal Lyman are publishing, in the May issue of the Saltwater Sportsman, an interesting theory, which may help explain the cycles of good and bad years of striped bass reproduction.

They feel that the ultraviolet rays associated with periods of intense solar (sunspot, etc.) activity may have a deleterious effect on the hatching of striper eggs. Checking with prominent scientists, they found their theory confirmed, to the extent that years of poor striper production have indeed coincided with periods of greater solar activity, in years past.

CALL FOR ACTION

During the winter we received a call from a ship's agent inquiring as to the availability and cost of chartering a boat to take two foreign nationals off one of those damnable trawlers that has been scouring our coast.

Happily, the job never materialized, for as far as we were concerned, those people could darned well swim home.

However, everything serves a purpose, and the episode prompted me to write the following letter to President Nixon:

President Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President,

A very short distance from where you stayed in Montauk, Long Island, New York, preceding your successful run in '68, is an overlook parking field on Montauk State Parkway. If you were to park there on a clear day and look to the southward, you could see an armada of ships working out there; and on a clear night, you would see a veritable city of lights.

These vessels are only a part of the invasion fleet of foreign fishing ships that is destroying our fisheries on the east coast. The time for using the fisheries as a pawn in the game of international politics is past. The minuet of diplomatic negotiations in this regard belongs to a bygone age that could not even have envisioned such destructive fishing machines as are on the seas today. Something must be done in a hurry, or there will be no fishery about which to negotiate.

Mr. President, you have spoken about the need to return to the self-reliance that marked the American of the past. The fisherman has always been self-reliant, and may well qualify as the last of the rugged individualists who is still willing to work long hours because he wants to be his own man. Unfortunately, he cannot buck the Russians, Poles, Bulgarians, Faeroese, Danes, Cubans, Spaniards, Germans, Japanese, etc., by himself, as well as our own State Department which has let him go down the drain of international gamesmanship.

Our new Secretary of Labor has proclaimed, "Let them eat fish!" Indeed. First of all, let there be fish to eat. Secondly, let them be caught by Americans thus helping to improve our own commercial, sportfishing, and concomitant industries and at the same time improve the balance of trade by keeping more of the fish dollar in this country where it rightfully belongs.

Sincerely yours,
Claire Glas
[Mrs. George F. Glas]

I had also sent copies plus covering letters to Senators Javits and Buckley and Congressman Otis Pike. The enclosed reply was just received from Mr. Pike:

Dear Mrs. Glas:

That was a beautiful letter to Mr. Nixon.

You ask if you can help me in my effort to establish a 200-mile territorial sea, and you certainly can, by writing Mrs. Leonor Sullivan, Chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries, asking her to schedule my bill H.R. 3294 [copy enclosed]. A similar bill in the last Congress was not considered by that committee, and letters of support would be most welcome.

Cordially,
Otis G. Pike

H.R. 3294

In The House Of Representatives
January 30, 1973

Mr. Pike introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

A BILL

To amend the Act entitles "An Act to establish a contiguous fishery zone beyond the territorial sea of the

United States," approved October 14, 1966.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a contiguous fishery zone beyond the territorial sea of the United States," approved October 14, 1966 (80 Stat. 908), is amended by striking "nine nautical miles from the nearest point in the inner boundary." and inserting in lieu thereof "two hundred nautical miles from the nearest point in the inner boundary or is at a point corresponding to a depth of five hundred and fifty meters, whichever alternative produces the greater breadth, except in the Bering Sea, where the seaward boundary is the International Dateline."

SEC. 2. The provisions of this Act shall take effect ninety days after the enactment of this Act.

If we are to succeed in getting the foreign fishermen out of our waters, it will take a long, hard pull against the tide and each one of us will have to make an effort if any headway is to be made. The only way Mr. Pike's bill will ever be scheduled for a hearing in the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee is if there is an overwhelming demand that it be scheduled.

We cannot sit back and expect that donating a couple of bucks to some organization will take care of the whole job for us. It won't. An eight cent stamp and a few minutes of your time to write a brief note (in your own hand or on your own typewriter) asking that H.R. 3294 be scheduled will provide needed impetus. Letters should be addressed to: Mrs. Leonor Sullivan, Chairman, House Merchant Marine & Fisheries, Room 2221, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

It is interesting to note that Mrs. Sullivan is a Congresswoman from St. Louis, Missouri. That's the "Show Me State." Well, let's show the lady that we want action now by flooding her office with mail!

Sincerely,
Claire Glas
(Mrs. George F. Glas)

SULLIVAN COUNTY'S CATSKILLS

Sullivan County Outdoors 1973, a comprehensive guide to outdoor facilities in that southern Catskills area, is now available. It lists details of two state campgrounds, two Town of Fallsburg installations, and 34 privately owned and operated ones.

Included is a calendar of events, a boating directory and information relative to golf courses and other recreational areas. A list of lakes and fishing streams is also contained.

To obtain the guide without charge just write to Sullivan County Publicity & Tourism Dept., Monticello, N.Y, 12701.

YOUNG BOATMEN'S COURSE OFFERED

A four-session course for young boatmen between the ages of 10 and 15 years will be conducted by Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit 12-3 of Glen Cove. Classes will be held on four Saturday mornings beginning on April 21, 9:30 to 11: 30 AM, at the Legion Hall, Bayville Road in Bayville.

The course is free and it will cover the basic New York State requirements for young boatmen who desire to operate a motorboat. A certificate will be issued to all those who successfully complete the course.

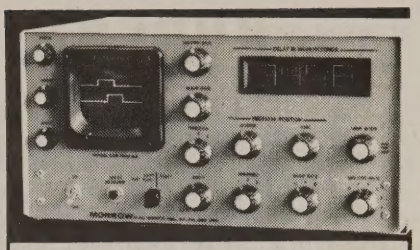
Further information may be obtained by calling Flotilla Commander Marcus Valicenti at OR 6-9072 or Education Officer George Bloss at WE 1-1570.

FISHING CLINIC SCHEDULE

The Jones Beach and Captree State Parks Fishing Clinic is sponsored by the Long Island State Park and Recreational Commission and Penn Reel Fishing Tackle Mfg. Company.

Jones Beach Fishing Piers: 10 A.M.
Captree Overlook Pier: 1 P.M.
Door Prizes

MAY 19: Flounder Fishing
MAY 26: Blackfish Fishing
JUNE 2: How To Catch, Clean and Prepare Blowfish and Eels.
JUNE 9: Fluke Fishing
JUNE 30: Bay Fishing for "Weaks" and "Kings"
JULY 7: "Pest" Fishes and What You Should Know About Them
JULY 14: Natural Marine Baits — Part I
JULY 21: Natural Marine Baits — Part II
AUG. 11: Bluefish and "Snapper" Fishing
AUG. 18: Surf Fishing — Part I
AUG. 25: Surf Fishing — Part II
SEPT. 1: Striped Bass Fishing



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HUDSON RIVER PRIMER; PART III

Coast & Geodetic Survey charts will show all the marsh outflows, like this one in Tarryton, where stripers congregate.

The Lower Bay, Spuyten Duyvil and Tallman Marsh
by Pete Barrett

Water hissed softly past the wooden pilings of the pier while lights from the shore reflected on the water like so many thousands of winking sparkles. Inside the shadow line of these lights a large bass splashed noisely as he swirled after each unsuspecting bait fish washed past in the turbulent water.

Bill tossed a jointed Creek Chub across the rip and up current drifting the plug into the darker water in the shadows. Just as the braided line tightened and pulsed with the action of the wooden plug, the big striper noticed the undulating form and with one thrust of his powerful tail, inhaled it. Too late, he realized his fatal mistake as the hooks stung his mouth. Within minutes the 27 pound fish was placed in a wooden box next to two of his smaller brethren. Bill rowed back towards Weehawkin on the changing tide, satisfied once again with his take of bass.

I've heard stories like this related time and time again about fishing in the lower bays of the Hudson. Some are true, some are believable to a point and others are perhaps the result of too many half forgotten memories. One thing is certain. The lower Hudson River from the Tappan Zee Bridge to the Verrazano Bridge is loaded with stripers during the spring and fall.

The mud flats off Piermont are very similar to the flats at Croton and the methods here are basically the same. Netters string their nets across the flats and indicate good fishing locations with occassional 20 to 40 pound stripers in the daily take of fish. Cartoppers can launch at the little creek in Piermont which empties into the shallow water along side the Federal Paper Board Company. Those with larger craft must use the ramp under the George Washington Bridge in the Palisades Interstate Park and then travel north to the Tallman Marsh. Umbrella rigs trolled at the drop off to the channel have moderate success, and so have large bucktails. Most catches are made with live bait, the easiest to obtain being the white perch which readily hit bits of sandworm on small hooks. Rig them with a treble hook through the lips just like bunker dunkin'. Live eels, rigged eels,plastic eels and rubber worms are other good baits.

The outgoing tide is the best off Tallman and fly rodders too can have plenty of action here. On a number of occassions I've had dozens of fish up to 5 pounds on yellow streamers tied on number 2 streamer hooks. A good spot is at the end of the pier where a deep channel has been scooped out. Snapper blues, eels, tom cod, catfish and crabs are caught here in season.

Across the river at Tarryton down to the Tappan Tanker Co., John Carrigan walks the railroad tracks trying for bass at the outflows of creeks and rock piles. Snappers and perch also oblige and will hit on bucktails, Rebels, and spoons. Most of the bass are small but John has a few 20 pound class fish under his belt-and all from the River. Fishermen must walk quite a distance to get to fishing spots after parking their cars.

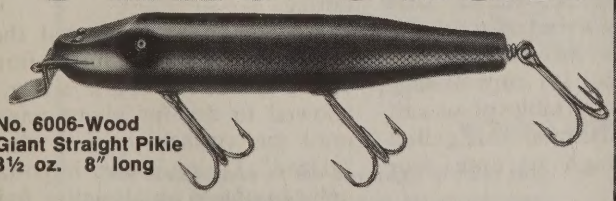
Palisades Interstate Park is a blessing preserving the natural beauty of some of the best real estate in north Jersey from the ever onward march of the developers. Mud flats stretch from Edgewater up to the New York state line and harbor school bass, perch, catfish, and tom cod. Also blue claws by the bushel full. The strong tides require sinkers of 2-3 ounces to hold bottom and the typical hook patterns are the Pacific Bass and the flounder in #10-8. Locals like the Egger brothers like to cast out as far as possible to reach the bigger fish. These are truly two dedicated fishermen, braving even the winds and snow of winter to catch the plump tommy cod. For those who fish the Spuyten Duyvil, the Palisades provide a magnificent view as the sun pops up behind from the sky scrapers of New York City. Spring fishing is spotty with the real good run starting in late August and into September and October. Regulars here like Johnny Kineler prefer pencil poppers, bucktails and sandworms. Fish at the ice breaker, at the old dock pilings, the rock piles from the decreped trestles and other irregularities in the shore line. With bucktails, if you aren't on the bottom losing a few in the rocks, you aren't fishing. Poppers are best when the bass are actively feeding on herring and the baitfish come right out of the water in a futile effort to escape. Last fall was a bad time-bass seemed to be held at shores along Jersey and the Island with the numerous schools of bait in these areas. We hope for next season. Bob Blanks of Schaefer Brewing Company used to fish the Spuyten Duyvil at a time when you could still walk out on the bridge walkway. Big bass are here waiting for large Atom swimmers, eel skins and giant Pikies. In Riverdale Park, Manhatten along the Henry Hudson Parkway there are good fishing locations at the 79th St Marina, at 96th St, at 125th St across from Grant's Tomb and at the old wooden piers at 136th St. Bloodworms on a 2/0 hook with an 18 inch leader and used with a 3-4 ounce sinker to hold bottom work well for bass, snappers, tommies and perch.

The little red lighthouse of story book fame marks a deep drop off under the G.W. Bridge from 15 feet to about 60 feet. Jap feathers, plastic eels, umbrellas and even bunker spoons have scored here in the past. Most fishermen catch stripers here by accident trolling to pass the time as they head down to Sandy Hook or take the family for a Sunday boat ride.

Edgewater was once the mecca for Jersey commercial shad fishermen. Today only Ronnie Ingold and a handful of followers continue to set their strings in this region. Talks with him are enlightening to say the least. Ronnie's biggest complaint is the numbers of large stripers that foul, tangle and damage his precious nets. Valuable time is wasted in repairs to be ready for the extremely short shad run. I spoke to Ronnie a week or two ago and he nodded to a striper of 30 pounds on the wall of Ed Grasers tackle shop, the Outdoorsmen Ltd in Fort Lee, saying, "That one there is just a little fellow. You should see the size of the damn stripers I get tangled in the net!" Ronnie releases the

Continued on Page 18

Cudas bite Pikie® Pikie bites back!



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Bob Luneburg and Tony Baldwin, marketing manager of a Sierra Leone (West Africa) brewing company, took this day's catch of barracuda on No. 6000-Pikies.

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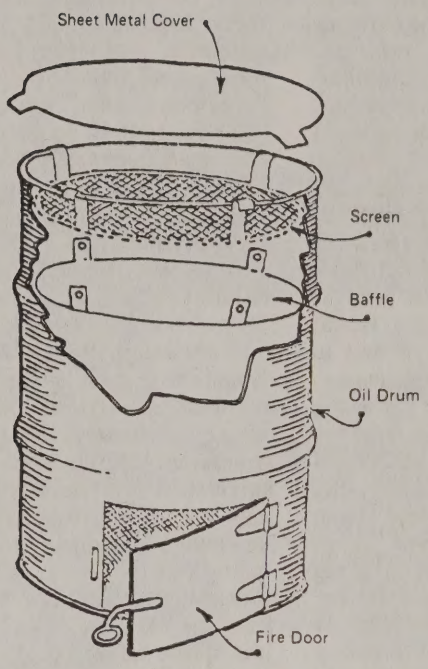
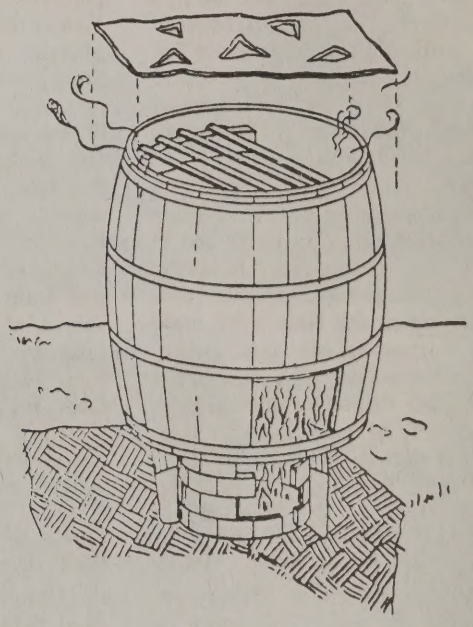
HOME SMOKING OF FISH



Metal Drum Smoker



Wooden Barrel Smoker

From: Home Smoking & Pickling of Fish, Univ. of Wisc. Sea Grant.

by Bill Walters

Smoking is an easy way for the sportsman to increase the flavor of his catch. Many local New York fish develop an excellent taste when properly smoked. Bluefish, eels, striped bass, and Tautog (blackfish) are most commonly used, although any fish can be smoked. Best results will be obtained with fatty or oily species.

The actual smoking process consists of three basic parts, (1) Cleaning (2) Curing, and (3) Smoking. Proper handling and preparation of the fish before smoking is essential if a high quality product is to be produced.

CLEANING

Deterioration of your fish begins the moment you bring it aboard. By icing down your catch, you can keep spoilage to a minimum and preserve eating quality. The fish should be scaled and the entrails removed. Special attention should be given to removing the kidneys which are the dark brownish material along the backbone. The head may be either left on or removed. Small or medium sized fish can be smoked whole or split. Larger fish are normally prepared as fillets or steaks.

CURING

After the fish is thoroughly cleaned and washed, a brine solution is used to add to the keeping quality of the finished product. You may use a commercially prepared curing compound, or you may prepare your own solution. A satisfactory brine can be made as follows: To one gallon of water add, 1½ cups of salt, ½ cup sugar, and 1 tablespoon salt peter (Potassium Nitrate). One gallon of brine is enough to cure four pounds of fish.

Flavor of the smoked product can be improved by adding spices to the brine solution. Commonly used spices include bay leaves, cloves, and sage. About ½ ounce of spice to a gallon of brine should be satisfactory.

The fish should be placed in a large clean container and covered with the brine solution. Earthen crocks, enameled pots, and large glass jars are ideal for brining. If none of these are available, use any available container and line it with a large, heavy-weight plastic bag.

Temperature should be held between 32° and 38° F (about normal refrigerator temperature) while the fish is in the brine. The fish should be left in the solution for at least 12 hours. Large fish may require up to 24 hours in brine for complete curing.

When curing is completed, the fish (or fish portions) is removed from the brine, rinsed in fresh water, and allowed to dry for about one hour until the surface appears dry and "glazed". Drying is very important in order to obtain an attractive finished product. The dried fish is now ready to be smoked.

An alternate method to brine curing consists of dry curing of the fish in salt. To use this system, the cleaned fish is thoroughly covered with large amounts of salt, placed in pans, and stored in the refrigerator overnight. The following morning, the salt is washed off, the fish is driedon the surface and smoked as in the brine method. Better final results will be obtained by using the brine curing method although the dry salt

procedure is more convenient.

SMOKING

A smoking fire should be prepared in the smoke houseand allowed to burn down to a bed of coals. Now add hardwood chips, hardwood sawdust, or small hardwood boards to the coals to produce large amounts of smoke. Recommended woods include hickory, maple, oak, beech, ash, or apple. Resinous woods such as pine or fir should not be used.

The fish should now be placed in the smokehouse. Fillets or steaks should be placed on wire racks (skin side down-fillets). Whole fish are usually hung on wires which are inserted firmly into the "collarbone" or backbone. Larger fish may be placed on well greased trays or racks. "Butterfly" or split fish are often nailed to wooden dowel rods which are hung across the smoker. "Splits" can also be laid on racks with their skin side down. Fish hanging in the smokehouse should not touch against other pieces.

The fire should be checked about every 30 minutes to keep a dense amount of smoke in the chamber. The smoke is best regulated by adjusting the air supply to the fire. A slow smoldering fire should be maintained. The temperature in the chamber should be maintained at about 100°F or below for the first 30 to 5 hours. After this period, the temperature should be raised to 180 to 200°F to thoroughly cook the fish for at least one hour. Total smoking time is about 4 to 6 hours, depending on size. When the fish is done, the backbone will readily separate from the meat.

The warm fish can be brushed lightly with vegetable oil. This will give a nicer appearance to the finished product. Now the fish should be wrapped in wax paper and placed in the refrigerator. Smoking has little preservative action and merely adds to the flavor of the product. Smoked fish must be stored at normal refrigerator temperatures and should be eaten within two weeks or less. The freshly smoked fish should be immediately frozen in an airtight package if it must be kept for periods longer than two weeks. Frozen smoked fish should last well for about three months. Once the fish is thawed, it should be eaten within three days.

Smokehouses may be obtained from commercial sources or built by the sportsman. Fifty gallon drums can easily be modified into a suitable smokehouse. The finished house must be reasonably airtight and have provisions to tend the fire and regulate the air supply.

Specific information on fish smoking and ideas for building smokehouses may be obtained by writing to: Sea Grant Advisory Service, Marine Sciences Research Center, SUNY, Stony Brook, New York 11790. An informative booklet on fish smoking and pickling may also be obtained from this office for a fee of 10 cents.

This article was prepared in cooperation with Gale Steves, Home Economist, National Marine Fishery Service. Bill Walters is currently a Regional Marine Specialist with the New York Sea Grant Program.

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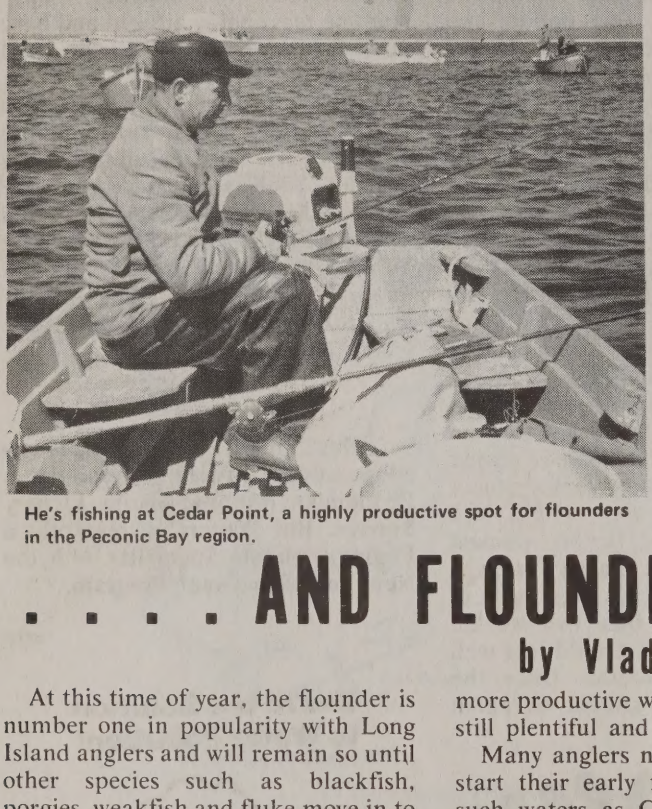
THERE ARE FLOUNDERS . . .



He's fishing at Cedar Point, a highly productive spot for flounders in the Peconic Bay region.

Popular and tasty, the lowly flounder can be caught at many Long Island spots well into May.

. . . . AND FLOUNDERS AND FLOUNDERS!

by Vlad Evanoff

At this time of year, the flounder is number one in popularity with Long Island anglers and will remain so until other species such as blackfish, porgies, weakfish and fluke move in to replace them in the bays, inlets, tidal rivers and ocean.

n fact, many anglers fish for flounders only because they are one of the earliest fish to bite after the long winter. Even if some of these anglers look down on the flounder as a fighter, they still fish for them because they are the only fish available or they like to eat them. Or they just want to be out fishing. As soon as other fish which they consider more desirable arrive, they forget about flounder fishing until next spring.

However, the angler who really likes to catch flounders can have a pretty long season if he travels to different spots all over Long Island. He can stretch out his flounder season well into May and catch even bigger flounders by fishing spots which get hot as the season advances.

The trouble is that many flounder fishermen get into a rut and fish only a few weeks or go out a couple of times early in the season and then quit. Or they confine their fishing to one spot and catching nothing but small flounders which get even smaller and scarcer as the weather and water warms up. That's the time to look for more productive waters where fish are still plentiful and bigger in size

Many anglers near New York City start their early flounder fishing in such waters as City Island, Pelham Bay, off Orchard Beach, Eastchester Bay, Rye, Playland, Westchester, Jamaica Bay, Rockaway Inlet, Rockaway Jetty, Reynolds Channel and along the north shore of Long Island in the various bays such as Little Neck Bay, Manhasset Bay, Hempstead Harbor, Oyster Bay, Cold Spring Harbor, Huntington Bay, Northport Bay, Nissequogue River and Smithtown Bay and Port Jefferson. Fire Island Inlet and Great South Bay are also great flounder spots, especially off Amityville, Lindenhurst, Babylon, Bay Shore, Heckscher State Park, State Channel and around the Robert Moses Causeway and off Sayville, Patchogue and Bellport.

The above are all good spots and produce plenty of small and medium sized flounders up to two or three pounds or so. For these fish use your lightest spinning, bait—casting or salt water outfits, light lines and small #8, 9 or 10 Chestertown hooks. These are mostly shallow waters and light sinkers from 1 to 4 ounces will usually be heavy enough to hold bottom. Painting these sinkers white, yellow, red or silver will help attract more flounders.

These fish will go the usual bloodworm or sandworm baits and also mussel and clams. Chumming is a big help to attract the flounders under your boat and so is dragging the anchor in circles or using a long pole with a plumber's helper on the end to stir up the bottom. For chum you can use mussels for chumming. You can either gather your own mussels or buy them by the bushel from many boat liveries or dealers. The mussels can be cracked and thrown overboard or you can lower them in mesh bags or chum pots to the bottom also after cracking the shells.

As the season advances and it you want big flounders, head east out on Long Island. There are many spots you can fish here such as Mastic Beach which have a lot of fishing stations where rowboats can be hired to fish Moriches Bay. Here the popular spots include the waters off the Coast Guard Station, the Smith Point Bridge, Hart Cove, Seatuck Cove, Haven's Point and many of the buoys throughout the bay. The fishing station owners will direct you to the best buoys and spots

A bit to the east we find Shinnecock Bay where you can fish such spots as the Ponquogue Bridge, the "Baskets" and "Greenlawn" areas and Tiana Bay from boats. For shore angling you can try the Quogue Canal and

Shinnecock Canal.

Just north of Hampton Bays you'll come to Flanders Bay, Great Peconic Bay and Little Peconic Bay. You can fish most of these waters from fishing stations and boat launching spots at Riverhead, South Jamesport, New Suffolk and Southold. April is a good month here, but if you go out to the Peconics in early May, you can also try for weakfish, porgies, kingfish and blackfish.

Just north of Peconic Bay is Mattituck, another great flounder spot. Here you can run out into the Sound and fish for big flounders just outside the inlet.

Going east we come to Sheleter Island Sound and the waters around Shelter Island. Orient Harbor and the waters around Orient Point are also near here and can be fished for flounders. You can reach many of these spots from Southold, Greenport, Noyac and Sag Harbor.

Now we come to one of the best spots for big flounders on eastern Long Island. This is Gardiner's Bay, and the waters around Gardiner's Island. You can reach some of the best spots from Sag Harbor, Three—Mile Harbor and Promised Land. A highly productive spot here are the waters around Cedar Point and Cedar Island and Northwest Harbor. For real big flounders try the "Tabaccolot" Bay area on the eastern side of Gardiner's Island. You can also fish around Cartwright Island for the big ones.

For these big "sea flounders" you can use somewhat sturdier rods, heavier lines and bigger hooks than for the smaller flounders taken in the waters of western Long Island. Chestertown hooks in sizes #4 or 5 are the ones to use. Although these big flounders will take seaworms at times, m ussels and clams usually make better baits. If fishing at anchor doesn't produce much action, try drifting if the tide is slack or weak or the wind isn't too strong. You'll often catch bigger flounders this way than when anchored.

Finally we come to Montauk where you'll find some of the best late flounder fishing of the season. You can rent boats or launch your own to fish a short distance outside Montauk Harbor, Washington shoal and Shagwong Reef. Here you'll often get cod and pollock also in late April and early May. Also, about this time of year some of the party boats at Montauk start fishing for the big "snowshoe" flounder found around Block Island. Here again, you're apt to come back with a mixed catch of snowshoe flounder, cod and pollock.

So if you have been confining your flounder fishing to the early weeks of the season, try fishing later this year and catch some of the bigger flounders which often outweigh the small fluke you will be catching later on.

Shinnecock Canal is a popular spot with families and those who like to fish from shore, for flounders.

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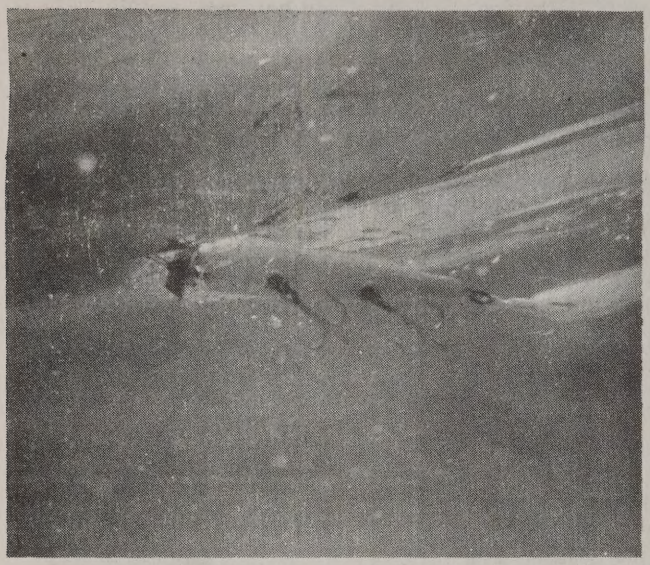
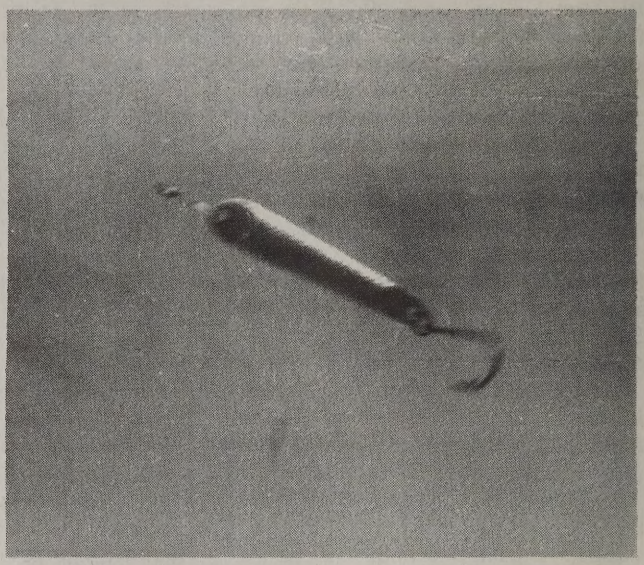
FROM THE FISH'S VIEW



Atom 40 working the surface.



Hopkins lure working.

by Dick Mermon

Ever try to figure out what a lure looks like to a fish? Some of these lures are just plain crazy to the human eye but to the finny world it means food. What kind of food does each lure represent? Presented and retrieved in different ways, sometimes the lure looks like different victims.

Take for instance the rubber tube called the "Gizmo". A piece of rubber surgical tubing, stuck onto a lead-headed hook, with a swivel in it, that spins in the water as it is retrieved. Of course to us it looks like what it made of, a rubber tube. To the bass, blue or weakfish it represents a sand eel, sea worm or a small eel.

Look at the rig that is mowhawking the bass and blues all the time, called the "umbrella" rig. These little rubber tubes attached to a cross wire, spin in the water and are supposed to imitate a small batch of bait fish, sand eels or some kind of food that is to be attacked. Add flashing spinners to it and the lure becomes more attractive.

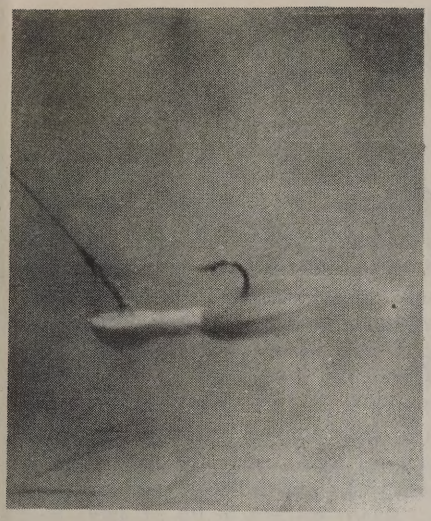
The "bucktail", one of the oldest lures made and still an old favorite of mine, does nothing in the water but move. Jigged, it jumps up and down. Cast up current and retrieved slowly, it just comes straight in, no action at all. Still, fish desire it. This is one lure that is a fish getter and not just a fishermen getter and has been for many, many years. The bucktail may represent a bait fish, shrimp, crab or almost any tasty morsel that they like. An added strip of pork rind to the hook, and the action changes for the better. The rind gives the bucktail the wiggle it needs to entice the fish into hitting it.

While we are on lead headed lures, lets take a close look at the fabulous bait tails. These lures are unbelievable. As with the bucktails, they have no action of their own in the water. I have watched these lures from above, in the water and under the water. Both ways there was no wiggle or diving action except a slight darting movement from side to side in the current. Still they do the job on the fish and that is what counts. Not only do they work here in the north-cast but in southern waters from the bridges in the Florida Keys. The 'cudas love them in St. Thomas; and in Bermuda the red snappers. I have caught large mouth bass and pike in the Canada and the Michigan coho also.

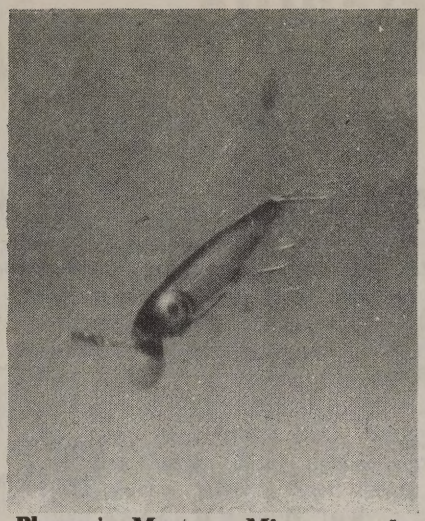
Getting into the heavier hardware, such as the tin squids, diamond jigs and stainless steel lures, all are killers in the right place at the right time. I watched a Hopkins passing by me underwater and it seemed just like a cold piece of steel with a hook in it. The flash and action gave off the appearance of an injured fish of some kind but the hook still looked like a hook. Add a bucktail tied hook and the lure has a tail. Maybe fish are not as smart as humans and do not recognize a hook when they see one but there are also humans that do not know a hook job either at times. It must be some shock, to a fish to find that he has bitten into a hunk of lead or steel instead of a fleshy tid-bit.

The only real life like looking lures in the water (under water that is) to the human eye are the swimming plugs, (surface, deep swimmers) and the surface poppers. The finest of all the fish getters is or was the Atom 40 and I bow my head with the passing on of this GREAT lure. As many now know, its manufacture has been discontinued. This lure brought cow bass up from the bottom for a swipe at it. The action is one that striped bass and big blues could never pass up. From down under, looking up at its action, I could understand why the lure has such an attraction. So, if you have any of these "passing parade" lures, guard and use them wisely, "there just ain't any more".

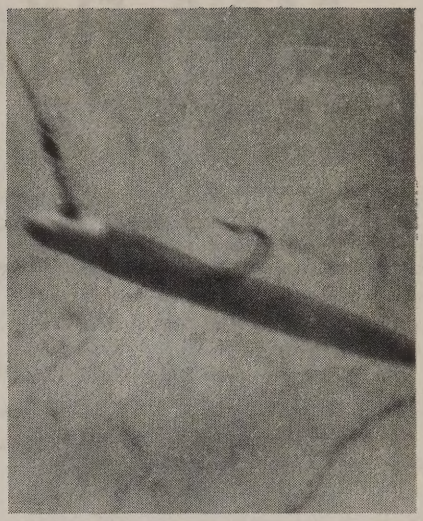
Pflueger's 4 inch, Mustang Minnow actually look like a crippled fish swimming down deep. It wiggles, flashes and dives all the time it is retrieved. In fact I attached this lure to the end of a spinning line, added two heavy split shot up about ten inches and dropped it back of the boat, I stuck the rod into the rod holder, and let the current against the lip of the plug give it the action. Before I knew it the rod bent from a strike. I fought the fish and landed a six pound weakfish. I did this several times, and before



A bucktail near the bottom



Plueger's Mustang Minnow underwater action.



Alou Bait Tail worked near the bottom.

long had a dozen nice weaks.

Rebel swimmers are another type of lure with action that looks like the real thing. They wiggle lide a burlie queen and flash like spangles in the spot lights.

Now for the "surface poppers": these are the lures that show the hit or miss from a fish. They imitate surface injured fish of one kind or another. I believe that these are the most productive of all the lures made and used. It matters not which company or type of lure you like best, they all do the same kind of job; pushing the water up in front of them, causing a disturbance on the surface, thus attracting large fish to the lure. One thing that is to be remembered; fish do not miss a lure on the surface because they misjudged it. If they want it, they get it no matter what. When they miss a lure, it is because there is something wrong about it that they cannot figure out. So they follow it in, swirling behind it several times, before they either smash it or pass it off. This is where a switch should be made to either a larger or smaller surface lure and usually it will be to a smaller one.

The action of the Alou eel in the water is beautiful, and very life like. It swims with such ease that I almost reached out and grabed at it myself when I was shooting pictures for this article. As for the rubber fish, I have had bass, blues and weakfish eat up six soft rubber fish in one evening of fishing. These are the five inch bally-hoo, six in a package. An 8/0 long shank hook is run through the mouth, through the body and out the fork in the tail. The fish would not touch any other lure which I had in the bag. That night I was the only one to connect while the other casters got skunked. It seemed that this was the lure that looked and acted like what they were feeding on, and that was all.

The lures that I mentioned in this article were all observed and photographed by myself from underwater. They are the lures which my fishing companions and I use most of the time for striped bass, weaks and blues. It is tough trying to photograph a trolled squid, rubber eel or fish, and how they look to a tuna or marlin in the water. So I'll just stay with these for now.

One thing to remember, it they look good, make sure they work right and the fish will prove if they like the presentation or not. Usually, lures that produce two or three years in a row will again, and again work.

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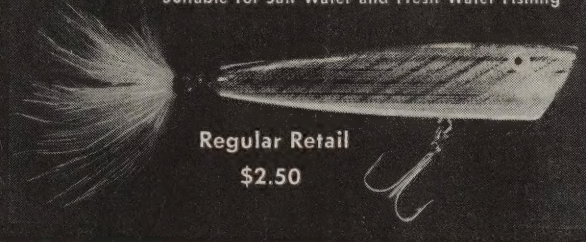

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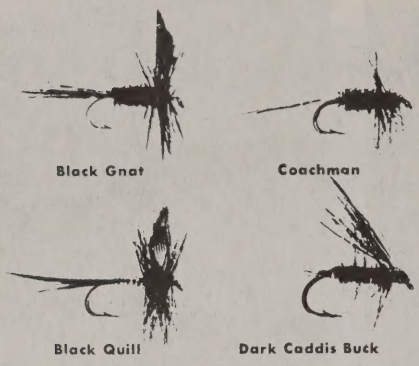
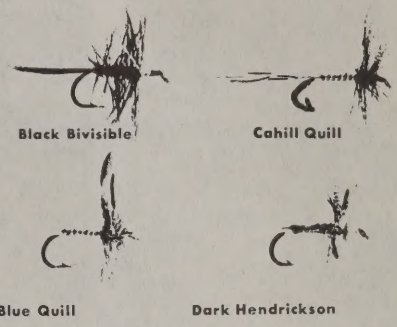


Four typical dry flies.



Four of the basic dry flies for Long Island.

by Don Vetter

Purest of the pure, the dry fly fisherman stands at the very pinnacle of the freshwater angling fraternity, the object of admiration or envy of lesser mortals. What these 'lesser mortals' fail to realize, is that dry flies are in fact the easiest of flies to fish. Given the proper balanced outfit, and the ability to lay out a 30 foot cast (shucks-make it 20), anyone can take trout on dries. The fascination of this method is its visibility; all the action is there for you to watch, and the sight of that first trout who inhales your hunk of feathers, is one you will not soon forget.

A double taper floating line (DT F) is a must here, for everything depends on delicacy of presentation (unless you are dealing with incredibly stupid fish), and this is all but impossible to obtain with level, and most weight-forward lines. A tapered leader, with a butt thick enough to match the line point is required, in order that it may turn over properly at the end of the cast. Tippet size may vary with the size of the fly (try threading a #28 dry fly onto a 2x tippet!), but 3x to 5x will cover most situations on Long Island.

The dry fly is specifically designed to stay atop the water with a minimum of dressing: note the stiff hackle feathers and light wire hooks (see cut). There are those who love to dunk their dries in a bottle of oily dressing at regular intervals - this adds nothing in the way of fish appeal, as no reasonably intelligent trout is going to be fooled by a fly which produces a minature oil slick on the water's surface. The new silicone dressings are a lot better, but you don't really need any, if you false-cast occasionally, to keep the fly dry.

There are many variations on the standard dry fly. The bivisible type, lacks the up-standing wings, and has hackle running the entire length of its body. The quill fly also often lacks wings, but the hackle is confined to the head area (see cut of bivisible and quill types). The midges are the tiniest (and often the most Productive on Long Island waters) of dry flies - they range from #20 down to an incredibly small #28. The so-called hackle-less dries, of which the Swisher-Richards are the latest, are really nothing new; they have been around for some time in the form of the parachute fly. They are held to present a more natural appearance to the trout. The two BASIC dries for the Island are (in my opinion) the blue quill and the dark hendrikson. Add in a quill gordon, and you will have 3 flies that will cover 90% of Long Island trouting. Sizes should range no larger than #14, a #16 being preferable in most cases.

Though purists who love to tote box upon box of every imaginable fly pattern will deny it, size is far more important than color. When the trout are rising all around you, and refuse to take your dry fly, change to a smaller size, rather than changing patterns, and you may find that this will do the trick. The aquatic insects (big mayflies excepted) which hatch on most of our trout waters, range from small to tiny; gear your offerings accordingly.

Assuming you are rigged with the proper sized fly and leader to match, and are faced with a pool, dimpled with rises (lovely thought), pick the fish that seems to be rising most consistantly, and cast to him. On a stream, cast above the rising fish, and allow the current to carry the fly over his lie, making sure there is enough slack line on the water for a drag-free float. If the line tautens, and threatens to create drag, you can 'mend' the line i.e. cast S bends into it. When fishing a pond there is no drag problem, and you may cast directly to the rising fish; just remember to stop the cast a bit above the water, for a gentle presentation,for if you slam line and leader down hard, you may spook every trout in the vicinity.

Pickups are of equal importance in dry fly fishing, as any disturbance of the water's surface may put down the rising fish. Before you begin your back cast, pull on the line to break the surface tension of the water, and assure a clean pickup. This necessity of avoiding unnecessary commotion is one reason why the roll cast is rarely employed in dry fly fishing, another being that this particular cast does not lay out the leader as well as the overhand, and thereby gives the trout too good a look at your line.

Traditionally, dry flies are never worked, but rather allowed to sit or drift atop the water, and this is the correct thing to do most of the time. Once upon a time, while in the process of reeling up my line, to head for home, a 17 inch brown trout slammed my fly which was, at the point, travelling along the surface fast enough to leave a wake like a motorboat. Experiences since then have shown me that once in a while (if infrequently) it pays to impart a bit of action. You never can tell with trout; they are often as unpredictable as people.

SO YOU'VE NEVER CAUGHT A BASS

by Ron Onorato

IN MY TRAVELS throughout the Island as a fisherman, I am amazed by the number of people who haven't caught a bass. "I've been fishing bass for ten years and I still haven't caught one yet," has been echoed time and time again. "I just spent 150 dollars on a charter boat and we still got skunked," is another favorite gripe. To those of you who have fished for ten years and still haven't caught a bass, the best thing to do is give up trying to catch a bass legitimately and go fishing for other species, with the hope that you will snag a bass accidently. Here is a compilation of true, documented cases of how various peoples have managed to catch their first bass.

After spending one full year in a fruitless search for old Roccus, I decided that bass fishing wasn't my bag. Then, while jigging for mackerel near the Glen Cove Jetty, a five pound bass made the mistake of grabbing a tinker tube. From there on, bass fishing went like a dream.

Most people catch bass while bottom fishing for other species such as blackfish and flounder. Such is the event which happened on the Bayville Bridge early this spring. I arrived at the bridge with my buddy Mike Scarola at dawn in hopes of fooling a few bass. We cast jigs, plugs, eels and what have you without so much as a boil. After three hours of this, we gave up and prepared to leave. As we walked over the bridge, we noticed a five year old kid and his ten year old brother fishing with worms for flounder. The little guy's rod was bent like a pretzel and he was muttering something about being stuck on the bottom. From the way the rod was buckling though, we knew the kid was into a big fish. We went over to the railing and looked down to see what kind of flounder the kid had. We stared in disbelief as a ten pound striper was thrashing about in the water below. Very adeptly, junior walked the fish along the railing and beached his first striper ever. We walked away muttering incoherently.

A well known friend of mine purchased a 17 foot Boston Whaler and equipped it with the latest equipment for bass fishing: sonar, radar, fish finders, scopes, etc. - the whole works. For one whole summer, this person seeks a bass. Fishing in the day, at night, the rain and storms, he fails to lay a bass in the boat. Things are so bad, he can't even get arrested. After another fruitless search, he pulls the Whaler up to the dock for gas and food. The proprietor, who has never caught a fish, let alone a bass, picks up one of the small spinning rods with a bucktail on the end and makes an awkward cast. Boom—something wallops the jig, right in front of the dock. After a brief tussle, a school sized bass is netted in front of my friend and his Whaler. The sanity of this bassless boat owner was on the verge of destruction, but the next week he saved himself, when a short bass grabbed a squid baited weakfish rig.

Speaking of bass from a boat, some really big cows have been caught by people merely seeking bait. Bunkers have become very popular for both bass and bluefish. When these huge baits are seen splashing on the surface, they can be obtained by snagging them with a weighted treble hook. However, more than one bass has made the mistake of snapping at the treble while feeding on the bunker. Last year a group of us rented a few boats from Hempstead Harbor, intent on catching some bluefish on bunker. After spotting a school, we proceeded to snag the bait. Then the fellow in the next boat snags a ton of bricks (or so he thinks). After an extremely long period of time, the fellow leads a bass that must be four feet long to the side of the boat. The big fish is snagged just above the tail, which accounts for the good fight the fish put up. As the gaff was made ready, the snag pulled out, and good-bye fish. It was the first encounter this fellow had with a bass. Though not his first bass, just ask Norm McCloy about the 20 pounder he snagged off Bayville a couple of years ago (Norm runs a tackle shop in Bayville).

An acquaintance of mine once spent the summer mating aboard one of Captree's bay fishing boats. The usual fare consisted of a mixed bag of weaks, kings, fluke or eels. He recalls when a young female angler hooked a small eel and was routinely bringing it to the surface. When the eel was near the surface, he observed a huge bass lazily following the eel. On his advice, the girl left the eel in the water. The bass promptly grabbed it nad made for the bottom. The young anglerette handled the rod well, and within a few minutes, a bass of 25 lbs. was gaffed. The girl remarked to him later that it was the first big fish of any kind she had ever caught.

There have been some people who have managed to land their first bass without the assistance of rod and reel. I don't advise the average angler to get rid of his equipment, but by pressing his luck, who knows what will happen.

About three years ago, a bottom fishing friend of mine brought back a bass that would make the local sharpies drool. This fellow, who never fishes for bass or blues, was blackfishing around the rocks at Matinecock Point in Glen

Continued on Page 18

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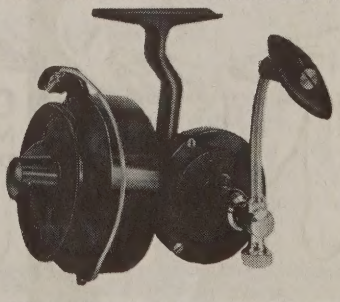

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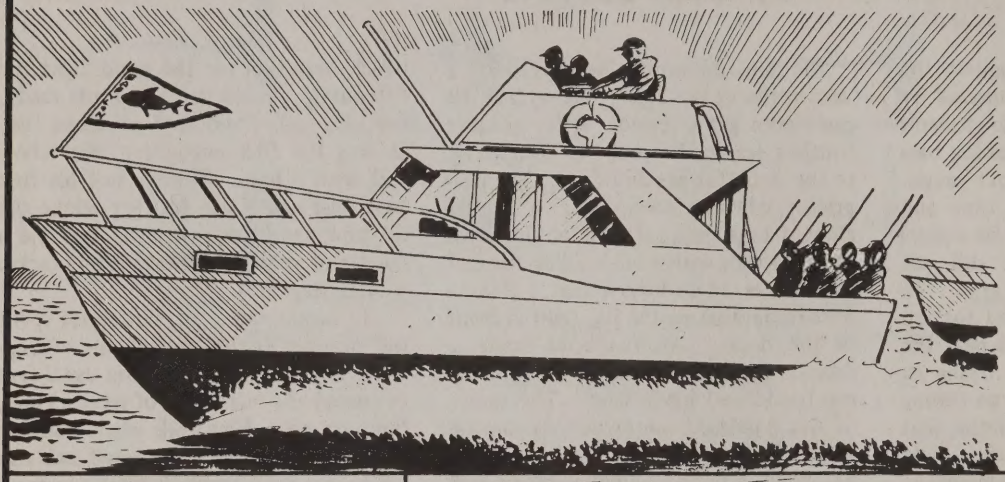

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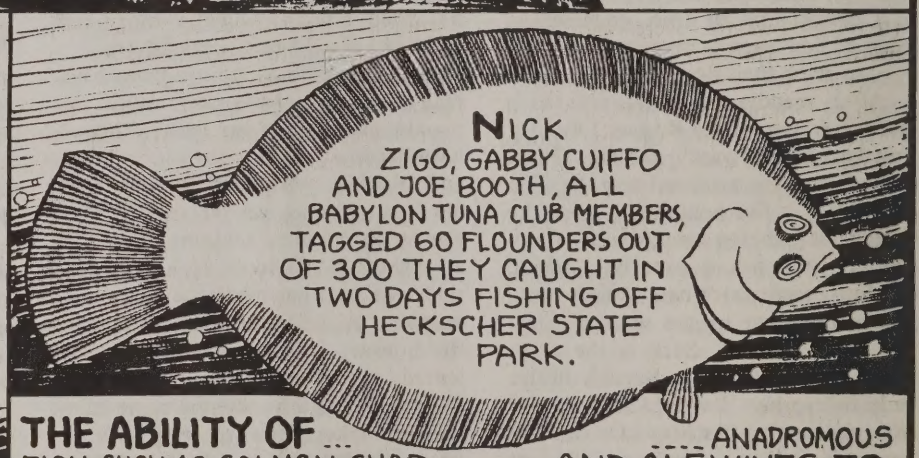

NICK ZIGO, GABBY CUIFFO AND JOE BOOTH, ALL BABYLON TUNA CLUB MEMBERS, TAGGED 60 FLOUNDERS OUT OF 300 THEY CAUGHT IN TWO DAYS FISHING OFF HECKSCHER STATE PARK.

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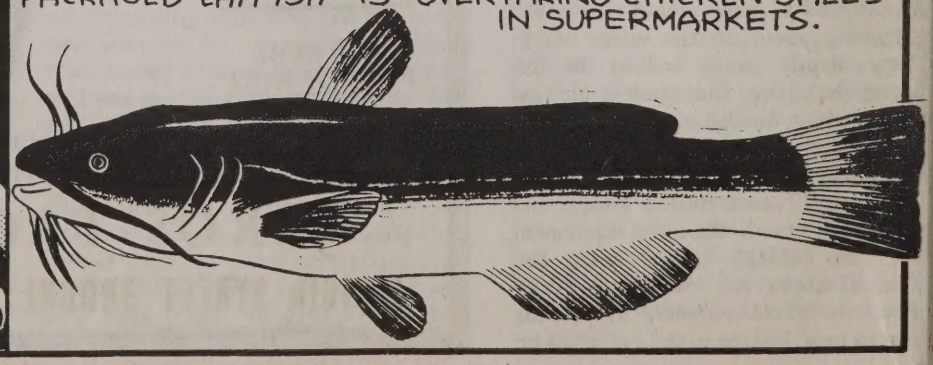

THE ROCKAWAYS

by Frank Berrafato

IN A PREVIOUS ARTICLE in one of last spring's issues of the L.I.F. (No. 11, March 30), this writer offered the surf at Great Kills Park, Staten Island as a good early spring spot for striped bass. That spring, the first bass catches (to my knowledge) were made in the evening of April 4th. Most of the bass caught at Great Kills Park were shorts, with a sprinkling of fish from 6 on up to 16 pounds. This year, the outlook is for a greater percentage of bass in the 19 inch category and larger. There are, of course, other areas which the reader should keep in mind, and in this article the writer offers the Rockaways, in general, and two jetties in particular as spots worth investigating this spring.

The Rockaways represent a 7½ mile stretch of beach bounded by Rockaway Inlet and Jacob Riis Park on the west, and by East Rockaway Inlet and the Atlantic Beach Bridge on the east. The streets are numbered from 149 to 1, making it convenient for locating specific jetties. The jetty structures end at 29th Street, and from that point east, the beach is dotted with remnants of wooden barrier fences, pilings, and rock piles (worn down jetties). The Rockaways are suffering from a problem which is plaguing many of Long Island's beaches - the problem of sand erosion. It is particularly acute between 25th and 40th Streets, and between 86th and 110th Streets. No adequate solution has yet been found to halt this erosion, but ideas such as pumping in sand from Jamaica Bay, or to take sand from further out in the ocean, have been toyed around with, but later cast aside as being impractical (would destroy Jamaica Bay wetlands), or too costly.

In the January 11th issue of the L.I.F. (No. 2), I referred to certain clues which might be helpful in determining which jetties afford the best chances of harboring different species of fish. Among these factors were rock formation, and the ability of the immediate area around a jetty to attract and hold various baitfish and crabs. The 29th and 30th Street jetties are two of the more productive areas. They jut out the same distance as the other structures, but they go into much deeper water, and the rock formation, exposed fully at low tide, fans out a great distance from the jetties. These two spots are, unfortunately, the toughest to fish from, since they are worn down by the continuous action of the waves, becoming treacherous as the water gets higher.

Clams and sandworms are effective baits in the spring (until mid-May), and many times will attract other local species - such as flounders and blackfish. There is an interesting division among the jetty jockies which one notes as the season progresses, particularly in the fall. Those who are fishing for blackfish will fish one jetty, and those going for bass (especially when using lures or plugs) will fish a different nearby jetty, evidently for the purpose of keeping out of one another's way.

Besides the 29th and 30th Street jetties, I have found the structures at 35th, 36th, and 68th Streets to be very productive at times. But as the season progresses, the prospective jetty angler will scout around and find his own little treasures along the beaches. With the promise of spring in the air, veterans and local sharpies will survey the surf and jetty areas every evening, spying with their binoculars for any tell-tale signs, such as a diving bird, or baitfish breaking water - being chased by some large gamester. It is hoped that with the information that this writer gives, a larger group of surfcasters and jetty anglers (particularly youngsters) will start making the long trek along the beaches and ocean fronts in the weeks to come, in quest of the finny inhabitants that swim the ocean surf.

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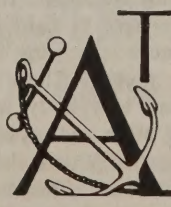

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HUDSON RIVER PRIMER

Continued from Page 7

unharmed stripers, the others he gives to residents in Edgewater and often there is a queue at his base of operations waiting their dole of tasty fish.

This section of the river is the most abused and its cluttered shore marred by rotting barges, junked autos and collapsed piers surely cannot be considered good fishing territory in the aesthetic sense. Yet, Mr. Bass must travel through this mess and he is fair game for those who take the time to seek him out. Youngsters often catch 5-10 pound stripers, and veteran river men like Bill Vercelli will set your mind to reeling with recaps of mighty battles with large fish within the last five years or more when boat liveries still operated off Weehawkin, Jersey City and North Bergen. Big bucktails fished in the rips, eel skin plugs, Atom 40's and Creek Chubs took many a linesider home for dinner. Just this past fall off Edgewater I had a tremendous follow up live bait should wouk here during the day, and at night, just as a few years ago,pluggers should do well too.

Off the Bayonne Military Overseas Terminal lies a bunch of rocks marked by a lighthouse and called Robbins Reef. Spring and fall is the season here and small boaters cast swimming lures, bucktails and poppers. Best rig is the bucktail spiced with a piece of squid. Launch facilities are available at Pulaski St off Rt 169.

Larger blues are caught in August and September in the vicinity of the Statue of Liberty on umbrellas-red and blue tubes. Al Fenner of Staten Island does well on stripers here too, and has even caught fluke right under the torch of the Statue. Al's boasting size bass is a 32½ pounder he fooled with a live herring four years ago.

That about wraps up the Hudson River fishing. There are lots of blank spots-the result of not enough fishing pressure and not enough time to follow up each new idea, each rumor and each technique. Best bet for information this spring is to contact the tackle shops servicing each section of the Hudson. Ace& Charlie's will tell you about sturgeon, Tony in Ossining about Croton Bass, Ed in Fort Lee about the Palisades.

The river is full of surprises and full of fish at all seasons of the year and can offer something to everyone from the striper nut to the tommy cod fancier. I'll look for you this spring!!!

SO YOU NEVER CAUGHT A BASS

Continued from Page 15

Cove. It seems he noticed a large amount of splashing going on in the shallows close to shore. He went over to investigate and found a tremendous striper wallowing on the beach. Not having a gaff or large net, he beached the boat and collared the bass with his hands. Upon close inspection, the fellow noticed a large blackfish stuck in the gullet of the fish. Obviously the big bass had grabbed a meal that was too big to handle, and choked on it! He delivered the bass, which went a shade under 30 pounds, to the boat livery station. A close examination revealed that the bass had two more smaller blacks in its belly. The bottom bouncer left the bass with the livery operator because he wasn't interested in bass!

Take the case of the 20 pounder caught off Henning's Dock a couple of years ago. It was a warm summer day, with little boat activity in the area. One of the dock boys was sitting on the edge of the dock when he spotted a big bass finning right below him. He made for the store house for a net to snag the bass. Returning with a small seine net, he promptly lowered it over the bass and hauled it up to the dock. Clam chummers, who had had a fruitless day at the Atlantic Beach Bridge, looked on in awe.

Surf fishing for bass the last few years has been rather poor. Veterans as well as beginners have been finding the going tougher from the surf than from a boat. However, there have been several occasions where people who were not seeking bass landed their first one from the surf.

One of the more memorable occasions concerning this subject happened last fall off Stehli's Beach in Bayville. It was early October, and the blues were hitting the north shore beaches with some regularity. After spending a week or so in a fruitless search for south shore bass, Mike Scarola and myself decided that we needed some surf action with the blues. The local hungries informed us that the fish would come in late afternoon or early evening and hit until dark. The next week we headed up to Bayville, with Mike still seeking his first surf bass. The blues came in right on schedule and everyone was waiting for them with popping plugs. The fish blitzed the beach and everybody was into a fish, including Mike and myself. The fish were in the 6-8 pound class, and there were lots of them I beached my first fish, and was stupified to find that Mike had landed not a bluefish, but a 6 lb. bass. It was the only bass to be caught during that hour long blitz by some 30-odd anglers.

The final story, and perhaps the most humorous, happened off one of the Far Rockaway jetties two summers ago. A middle-aged fellow was at the tip of the jetty. It was obvious that the gentleman was new to the game of spinning. On almost every cast something went wrong. He would snap the lure off during a cast, snag a lure on the bottom, hang the rocks on a cast, and generally make a mess of the monofilament on his spinning reel. We felt sorry for the fellow, but it was funny to watch. After losing some Hopkins lures to the rocks, the fellow put on a giant floating Rebel. He made a cast that created a series of tangles on the reel. Deciding that he had suffered enough, some of the other casters helped him untangle the snarl. After it was cleared up, the angler was astounded to find line peeling off his spool at a rapid rate. While the knots were being taken out, a nice sized bass saw the floating Rebel being churned by the fast currents of the Inlet and decided it was good to eat. With the advice of some 20 other anglers, the novice landed a nice bass of 15 lbs., his first one. If I wasn't there, I wouldn't have believed it!

These few tales are just one man's account of bass fishing. I am sure that every angler can add one or two of his own. So for those of you who want to catch a bass, hang in there, and one of these days the gods of bass fishing will smile upon you.

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South Shore Reports

DICK MERMON

MONTAUK

"The spring cod run is really on," reported Capt. Paul Forsberg. Saturday was good, but Sunday was even better. The weatherman and the codfish sort of teamed up, however, the one-two punch came from the fishermen on the "Viking Star." Capt. Forsberg took his fares south of Block Island where the machine recorded schools of fish. The fish were not of the quality size, but quantity took over. The cod ranged in sizes of 5 to 10 lbs. up to about 30 lbs. There was a scattering of snowshoe flounders mixed in.

Capt. Les Behan took his fares to Cox's Ledge on Saturday, and he said they really mohawked the cod. Not only was quanitty at hand, but quality cows showed. Best cod for the day was a 52 pounder brought up by Alex Ihasz of Lindenhurst. The toughest part of catching this cod was that he wasn't in the pool. Francisco Bonilla, of Brooklyn, was even luckier. He wrestled a 48¼ lb. cod and copped the pool money. Not only were big cod brought on board, but mixed in were pollack up to 32 lbs. and hake to 35 lbs. Capt. Behan said that all week long the cod really gave everyone sore arms, then came Sunday and it was as though someone closed the door on the feeding fish. The recorder marked schools of fish at different levels, but very few were taken. On Sunday it was a slow pick. Capt. Behan also said that now that the big cow cod are on the Ledge, he will be making the run every day at 4:00 AM except Mondays. The boat leaves at 3:00 AM on Mondays.

The "Hel-Cat" fleet went to work on the codfish just south of Block Island on both Saturday and Sunday. Capt. George Glas took a charter on Saturday and not only did the club show its colors by flying their personal banner on the mast, but they also knew how to fish for cod. They collected codfish up to 20 lbs., with a few snowshoe flounders mixed in. Each member of the Wonder Anglers of Astoria had 10 to 12 cod in their sacks.

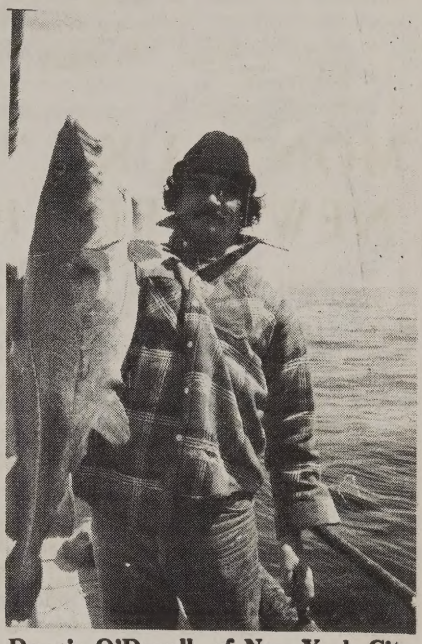
The "Marlin III" went to the same area south of Block Island on Saturday and Sunday. The fares took 275 cod and 35 snowshoe flounders up to 5 lbs. On Sunday, a 34 lb. cod took the pool among some 300. The pool winner also had 28 fish in his bag. He was the high hook all around. Capt. Rade said the cod are really in the area now.

Betty Dorman called to say that her husband, Capt. Bud Dorman, fished just southwest of Block Island on the ledge on Saturday, and Gene Lee of Sunnyside, Queens was high hook with 25 cod. All the other fares averaged 15 to 20 fish each. The fish ranged from 3 to 15 lbs. in weight. Sunday things slowed down once again, but a steady pick of cod kept the action going.

Juan Serrano, of Brooklyn, with a 38 lb. cod, caught Saturday, April 7th aboard the "Hel-Cat."

PROMISED LAND

Flounders were a little on the slow side over the weekend but the fishermen that drifted around found the fish and settled in on one spot. Flatties of over 3 lbs. were brought back to the dock. The fish averaged from 1½ to 2 lbs. The small fish were around also, however, they did not feed as they did a week ago. Art Brand of Promised Land Fishing Station also said that the people that chummed with mussels after they found the fish did better than the ones that just went out and took pot luck.



Dennis O'Donell, of New York City, with his 51 lb. cod, caught on April 9th, aboard the "Peconic Queen II."

SHINNECOCK

Peconic was the spot for the big flounders on Sunday. Capt. Clark Bellows put his fares right on the flounder hole and in they came. On board mixed sized flatties went into the bags. Some 8 or 10 over 2 lbs. each were taken. On Satuyrday, the fishing was slow in the Shinnecock area. Fish were slow feeding and a little on the small side, but everyone had fish.

The flounder fishermen (and women) were shoulder to shoulder on the canal both Saturday and Sunday. Not only were the fishermen there, but the fish were there also. Mickey Altenkirch also said there is an abundance of bait in the water, such as sand eels, sand shrimp and spearing. With this type of bait available, the bass and weaks should arrive any day.

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SAG HARBOR

Helen Jacobsen of Noyac Marina told us that in general the fishing was good but not as fantastic as it should be this time of year. Russ Brown and his son, "Tricky Dicky," of Massapequa, fished north of the ferry slip and really did a job on the flatties. All the fish in the basket were over a pound, and some went over 2 lbs. "Tricky Dicky" had a secret for catching fish, and he proved it would work. The secret was a special formula that the sinkers were marinated in overnight. It was called "Peterman's Mexican Discovery." Another pair of happy anglers were Mr. Heller and Mr. Piscitelli of Islip who fished the end of Jessups Neck on Saturday and had some 30 nice flounder up to 1½ lbs. Sunday was an off day, but Jaye Kudlo and her husband John of Farmingdale took home 14 flounders up to 2 lbs. They used mussels both for chum and bait. Once again, the ferry slip was the productive spot.

Capt. Clark Bellows, Sr. took his fares out to Cedar Point and had flounders from 2 to 2½ pounds. The smaller fish from 1 to 1¼ lbs. were taken at Coecles Harbor. Mussels were best in the bait department, however, worms are beginning to show that they are almost as good.

HAMPTON BAYS

The tides were very bad over the weekend but what was lacking in amount was made up for in size. The best fishing was either early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Most of the fish were caught near buoys 21, 27 and 31. They went up to 2½ lbs. in weight. Ernie Berhle of Bradley's Fishing Station said that this weekend should really bring out the fish in all sizes.

Tony's Fishing Station also reported that the big thing was the tides. All week the tides never came up to normal conditions. "It was like somebody pulled the plug in the bay on Saturday and Sunday." The fellows that knew the area did get about 30 fish per boat, and all nice sized ones at that. Barbara said that mussel chum was a big factor and that the fish were near buoy #10, #20 and #18.

Ted DeCastri of Three Aces Fishing Center told us that the bay gill netters had a few small bass last week. The flounder fishing is still going strong in the canal, and Ted is looking ahead to one of the biggest seasons ever in weakfishing.

Frank Calderone and Razz Rosati of Brooklyn, and Bill Rosati of West Babylon, with flounders caught at Hart's Cove on mussel baits. The trio fished out of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

MORICHES BAY

Benny White fished the hole in Seatuck Cove and did very well on the flounders on Saturday. Dr. Linkoff and son had a bucketful at the same spot. It seems the flounders were in the deeper water for a couple of days. Mussels were used for both bait and chum. Nancy, of Skidmore's Fishing Station, also said that the tide went out and it seemed that it never came in again, causing the fish to go into deeper water.

Tadsen's Fishing Station reported the same conditions as far as the tide goes. The weather was beautiful, the fish were there, but the tide did the fishermen dirty. Generally the fishing was a little slow but better days are ahead.

Capt. Ron Schlueter had some nice fish, however, the fishing is a little slow right now. The tide was so low that the "Alma" almost touched bottom in some places. These spring tides are really no good for fishing. The fish are harder to find and the water gets a little murky.

MASTIC BEACH

Keenan's Fishing Station said that the weather may be sunny during the day, but it' s still pretty cold at night. The problem is that one day it' cold, the next is warm or the wind blows. In fact, there was ice in the boats on several mornings. This constant change keeps the flounders down. Ron Keenan said there are signs of stripers in the bays. They are moving in and

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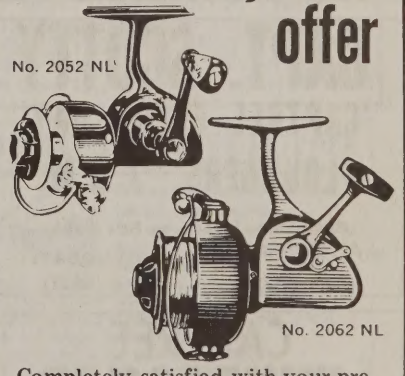

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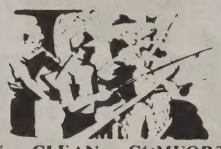

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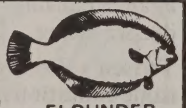

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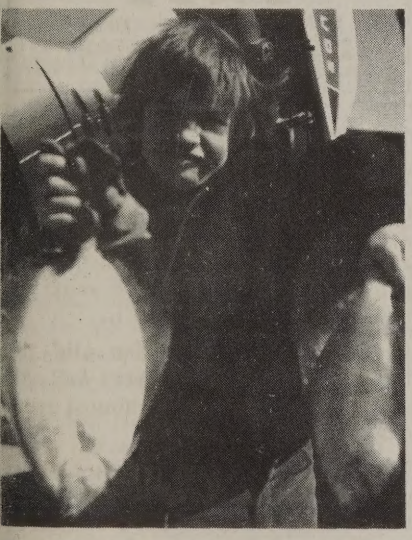
out, and it won't be long before the weaks start to show strongly.

SAYVILLE

Sand eels, spearing, bunker, sand shrimp and killies are all over the bay. Big eels are being caught by the fishermen, and Dennis Masterson of South Bay Fishing Station said that he cut open one of his customers flounders and found two spearing of some three to four inches in length in the stomach. Dennis also said that the bait men are really working up a storm with the spearing in the bay. The tides were the big problem this past weekend, but things are about to get better. All we need is for the major factors to combine forces to five the fishermen what they need.

CAPTREE

The weekend at Captree was the biggest of the season. Flounders up to 1½ pounds were caught. The fishing was a little slower on Sunday, however, the fishermen all had fish. Most of the boats fished east and found that worms, clams and mussels worked equally well when the fish came around. Plenty of small fish were caught and returned to the water.



Ronald Porcelli, age 6, with his first catch of flounder, taken on worms off Heckscher Park on Saturday.

BABYLON

Charlie Fischett once again ran to the Oregon Wreck and loaded up on the cod that are settling there. Augie's Bait & Tackle also reported flounders are everywhere, but the big ones have to be hunted down. State Channel was the scene of activity, with most fishermen looking for a bass or a weakfish mixed in with the flounders.

Carp are being taken from Argyle Lake in Babylon. The fishing is being done at the north end near the inlet stream, with doughb alls and corn meal balls for bait. Trout are also being caught on worms from the shore of Southards Lane Pond, said George of Babylon Sports Center. He had a weigh-in of a carp for the store's contest which has some nice prizes, such as a Shakespeare ultra-light rod and reel combination.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle reported a few bass are being caught on bloodworms at Cedar Beach, however, they must be returned as they are shorts. Flounders are the fish on the top of the list at the present time and they, too, are accommodating at times. All types of worms will work, but mussels seem to be what they prefer right now. Bill Massy of Lindenhurst, and a member of the Squaw Island Fishing Club, went out on the "Sea Wolf" on a tilefish run. Bill brought home several fish, the biggest scaling 48¼ pounds.

AMITYVILLE

Sam Weiner, his wife and their daughter went out on their boat "Good Times," and caught 22 nice sized flounders. Their dog went along for the ride and he was the only one that got skunked. Mike of Sportackular also said that there are confirmed reports that the mackerel are near our shores. He heard on the CB radio that a boat was into the mackerel right off our shoreline, and that this boat was the only one there. Mike could not pick up the location or the name of the boat.

George Combs said that Frank Whiting of Amityville had 4 short bass at Gilgo Beach on Saturday, and 3 more on Sunday. Frank tagged and released them. He was using bloodworms for bait. The bass are on the move, said George. George Fisher and his partner Gordon Moore, both of Amityville, fished the area known as Broadway and 42nd Street, which is the State Boat Channel and Amityville Cut for flounders, and collected 23 big ones up to 2 lbs. Mussels and worms were the baits. Trout are taking small killies and Rep-Spin Minnows at Massapequa Reservoir. These fish run up to 12 inches in length.

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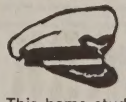
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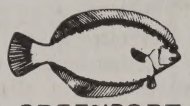
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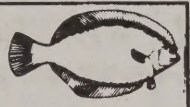
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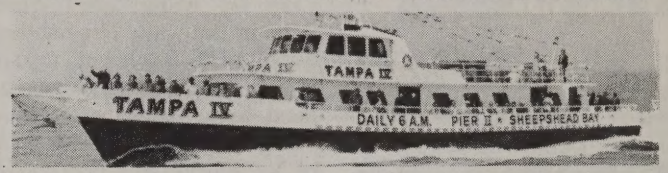

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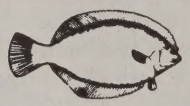
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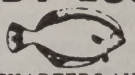
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SEAFORD

The first bass of keeping size has been confirmed by Lon Wanser. Lon said that Chris Christiansen of Seaford, fishing at Robert Moses, set up a rig for flounders on the bottom, and three feet up he put a bass hook with a whole worm. Chris landed two baSS AT THE SAME TIME. The fish went 19 and 20 inches. Lon's son-in-law, Dave Anderson, took his two friends out floundering. George Duffy and Tom Hanlan of Seaford managed to catch flounders. Lon, Sr. said if they can catch flounders, there must be plenty around.

Pop's Fishing Station also said the flounder fishing is going very well. All sizes are being caught in almost every channel.

Naomi Inn Fishing Station had its grand opening, and all the boats came back in with fish. "Wish I had more boats," was the word from the station. Most of the fish were in the 1 to 2 pound class, and mussels were best in the bait department.

Bill Jocke and John Hogue of Jamaica had 46 keeper flounders. Fred Casey and son of Wantagh, fished just west of the 2nd Wantagh Bridge. They took 44 nice fish. Dell's Fishing Station called and said that these two parties chummed with mussels and baited their hooks with worms.

WANTAGH

Causeway Bait & Tackle said that the flounders are everywhere. All that is needed now is a little less wind, warmer days and warmer nights. "Look for the bass and weaks in the bay within a week," said Frank Hecker.

NEW YORK BIGHT

RONNIE LEPPER

FREEPORT

Al Lindroth of the "Capt. Al" continued to mohawk the flounders this past week. Al reports the fishing as a moving game. Due to the colder water this week the fish aren't moving, so it' up to you. A change to mackerel and blacks is being contemplated as the offshore fishing improves.

Richie Kessinger of the "Star Stream" reports the offshore bottom fishing as very good. Friday the boat came in with at least 300 cod and blacks, the best part being that 6 fares caught all the fish. On Saturday, 25 fares averaged 15 blacks per man, with 40 to 50 cod mixed in. The blackfish are running up to 6 lbs., with the cod about the same. On Saturday, Richie's 13 year old son decided to stay with the jig in hopes of finding some macks. He wound up instead with 7 pollack, 3 cod and 13 blacks, along with a half dozen herring. Not bad! Rich expects the macks to make their show by next week.

Dolly Berkowitz, better known as "Lady Admiral," called to say that Capt. Bill Mieschberger of the "Capt. Jack VI" had one terrific catch on Sunday. He fished all the local waters and took fish at every spot.

Sy Karlin of the "Blue Fin" called in to report that his boat and the "Empire" fished from the 2nd Wantagh Bridge to Sea Dog Creek. It was a slow pick at the bridge but Swifts and Sea Dog Creeks produced well. The catch ran about 300 fish per boat, with a size range of throwbacks to 1 lb. fish. Most of the fish were caught on worms.

Paul Schmidt of the "Aloma II" called the LIF office to report that the local flounder fishing on Saturday was very,very good. Swift Creek in Freeport and Fundy Bay both produced well. On Sunday Paul took 29 customers to Sea Dog Creek at Reynolds Channel, only 15 minutes from the dock, and bagged over 450 keepers.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed Wardle of Ed's Fishing Station can only describe the situation as fantastic. All of Reynolds Channel, Cinder Creek, North Channel and the Flats are producing fine catches of flounder of good size. Ed told me that even the inexperienced fisherman is coming in with above average catches.

LONG BEACH

Tom Keeney of the Long Beach Sports Marina added one of his new glass boats to the fleet on Saturday. Due to the great flounder fishing, Tom has been running out of boats and motors by 7:30 AM every morning, weather permitting. "I wish I could have put in 10 more," Tom exclaimed with a huge smile. Tuesday is senior citizens day, with boats and motors at half price. This is a gesture I'd like to see more of.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station saw John Persico of Ozone Park along with Arnie Jenser of Woodhaven come in with a full bushel of oversized flatties; some of them looked like fluke, Leon said. Duck Point and Woodmere Channel were the areas; worms and mussels did the trick. One of the private boats came in with eight cod up to 20 lbs. 65 feet of water, E.S.E. of Buoy 4 is where they came from. A couple of local gillnetters came into the dock on Saturday with a very good catch of bunker. The West Bar of Debs Inlet is where they were fishing. Get out the big spoons, Mr. Roccus shouldn't be too far behind. George Turley of the Atlantic Beach Rod & Gun Club is leading as of now with a flounder of 1 lb. 15½ ozs. in the club's annual flounder derby. George also caught, tagged and released two short bass. Bill Hores of Far Rockaway had a few short bass along with his flounder catch on Sunday. Bill was fishing near buoy #5 in Reynolds Channel. If things go as expected, Henning's will be an agent for the new Wankel Outboard Engine in the very near future.

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HOWARD BEACH

John Brando of Cross Bay Rod & Gun Shop is happy to report the fishing in his area as holding on very well. Both the North and South Channel Bridges are still coming up with fine catches of good sized flatties. Wayne and Jerry Scheriff had John measure a 19 inch

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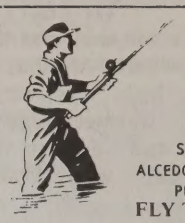

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bass, part of a catch of five taken at Little Neck Bay this week. The 19 incher was the only keeper.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Mike Maffai of Mike's Tackle tells me that most of the head boats are now running. The flounder fishing is so productive that the "Capt. Red" is making two trips daily, at 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM. Boats fishing Long Branch and the Rocks are coming in with good catches of cod and blacks. The "Pilot II" had a few mackerel near the end of the week.

Neal Lauro of Stella Maris heard of some decent catches of blackfish at the Marine Parkway Bridge. Nothing big, but a good start. The flounders at Manhattan Beach are still there in good numbers, with good catches coming in every day.

Harold Anderson of the Bay End Dock says that flounders up to 2 lbs. are still being caught regularly at Breezy Point Jetty. The Jetty is not a place to fish with light sinkers, so bring along some up to 8 ozs. Harold says rack space is still available for anyone interested in rack storage.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop says the only way to describe the bass fishing since Thursday is a blitz. The last of the in and the whole outgoing tide have been fantastic. The beach at Great Kills Park is the hot spot, with surf anglers doing a top notch job. Sandworms seem to be the most productive way of taking these fish. There are a lot of shorts, but also a lot of keepers. Inside of Great Kills Harbor reports of breaking fish on top are pouring in. (Get the plugs ready.) Six to twelve fish seems to be the average catch. Mixed in with the bass is a steady supply of big flounders. The rock jetty and bulkhead at Great Kills Park are balanced in favor of the flatties. Lenny has taken in a complete line of fresh water equipment to augment his already adequate supply of salt water goodies. Len says "WE HAVE IT A to Z."

SANDY HOOK

Capt. Bunting of the "Sea Horse" started at the Cedars on Saturday morning with a great catch of ling (40 to 50 per man), and as the tide slacked off, Bunt moved down to the Shrewsbury Rocks and a caught a good supply of blacks and cod up to 5 lbs. Around noon radio reports of a few mackerel came in. The fish were being caught near Seabright and at the Ambrose Tower. The number of macks taken were few but still a good sign. The water temperature dropped from 45 back to 43. As soon as it comes back up, the macks should be here in good numbers. As the afternoon tide began to move, Bunt moved back up to the Cedars and repeated his morning leap job. Due to the improved fishing, Bunt will be running daily, and tells me he will leave the dock with five fares if need be.

Joe of Julian's Bait & Tackle in Highlands spoke to Wayne Parksd of West New York, N.J. on Saturday. Wayne had just come in with 20 cod, 40 blacks and a few ling. The Shrewsbury Rocks and a few hours of fishing supplied the catch. Joe tells me that Willie on the "Palace" had a few mackerel for the fares that tried jigging on Sunday. (Any day now.)

P.S. — I'm sorry to say that this will be my last column for the L.I.F. this season, as duty calls. The bass are around the corner and I must devote all waking hours to getting the "KIM" shipshape by May. I'd like to wish all of you a great season and tight lines.

Ronnie Lepper

NEW JERSEY

PETE BARRETT

SEABRIGHT

Flounder are still the main attraction to please anglers in the Seabright area, although some reports of stripers have filtered into Giglio's, and whiting are hitting along the beaches at night. Sands are the preferred bait for ling, whiting and flounder, while bass will soon be hitting small plugs and bucktails.

MONMOUTH BEACH

With herring up in the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers, bass reports are coming into Monmouth Bait & Tackle with Red Banks the best location now. Rebels and Red Fins will be the best for plug chuckers. Flounders are available all throughout the area from Spermaceti Cove to the Coast Guard Station.

LONG BRANCH

Whiting fanciers are doing better at the Long Branch Pier according to Bart Sowel, and 10 to 12 per man was the average over the weekend.

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Incoming tide seems to be the best, and herring chunks the preferred bait. Ling are also mixed in. Watch for this fishing to improve now that the cold weather is behind us.

BRIELLE

Bob Voorhees of MV Tackle reported nice sized mackerel off shore, small codfish and even blackfish. Mackerel take teasers and diamond jigs with lots of flash. Blackfish are running large, up to 10 lbs. for the charter boats, with the Klondike, Manasquan Ridge and the Clam Beds the best locations.

NORMANDY BEACH

Ernie Wuesthoff checks the beaches each day for signs of stripers and happily reported lots of sand eels and other bait in the wash. Aside from school stripers (mostly shorts), whiting are available for the moonlighting fishermen. Flounder are hitting well and catches of 40-60 are not unusual.

TOMS RIVER

Clarence Miller has taken over the Bay Bridge Boats operation at Toms River and reported steady flounder fishing at the Mathis Bay Bridge and around the corner at Good Luck Point. He's predicting bluefish by May 15th.

SEASIDE PARK

Lots of shorts and a few keepers, said Jean of Jean & Art's Tackle. Nearly everyone fishing the Island Beach Park had bass over the weekend. Rebels and Hellcats worked over time on these small fish which indicate the real start of the season. Flounder are back in the bay because of the previous cold weather but should pick up in a day or two.

BERKLEY TOWNSHIP

Louie Wykoff weighed in a nice striper at Judy & Bill's of 8 lbs., taken on metal in the Park. Rebels, Red Fins and bucktails did most of the

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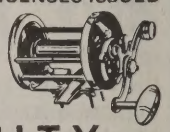

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catching, although the ratio of keepers was about 6-1 in favor of the smaller bass. Lots of spearing and sand eels in the surf point to better fishing to come.

BARNEGAT LIGHT

Henry's Boats reported excellent flounder fishing around the corner from the dock and catches were typically 30 to 50 per man. All their boats were rented to visitors catching the tail-end of the season. There's only a few weeks left to load up on flatties.

SHIP BOTTOM

Mackerel are reported offshore by Vince Goddard of the Fishermen's Headquarters. Bass are in the surf at the 12th Street bar and scattered along the rest of the beach. Flounder are hitting well along the bulkheads for boaters as well as beach bound fishermen.

BEACH HAVEN

Pat Baxter of the Snuggery Dock told of good catches by Bill McCandless who had 87 keepers and the partnership of Al Saba and Neil Sellitto who had 95 and many other throwbacks. Incoming tide is the best fishing; bloodworms with clam chum or fresh clams the best bait.

GREAT BAY

More and more keepers are being weighed in at the Great Bay Marina and a few weakfish have also been reported. Duane Eggie and Fred D'Amico had bass to 5 lbs. and tied this week's contest at the Marina. Flounder action is still good in Grassy Channel, at the old Coast Guard Station and in the Stink House area. Mackerel are out at the 2 BS buoy and weaks of small size were reported at the buoy # 20 in Great Bay.

MULLICA RIVER

Stripers and weakfish are hitting bucktails in the Mullica and in Great Bay is the word from the Chestnut Neck Boat Yard. Cheryl reported flounder fishing as steady with weakfish still spotty.

BRIGANTINE

Flounder fishing is great, says Bill Heller of Young's Dock. Fish of 1½ lbs. in numbers of 60 to 100 are coming from Weakfish Thoroughfare and Black Point. A few bass have shown up along the sod banks taking bucktails and worms, and larger stripers are following the schools of mackerel just offshore.

ATLANTIC CITY

Striper fishing is picking up along the surf with the North Beach at Brigantine the most likely spot to connect. These fish are running 2-7 pounds at the top of the tide. Bob Shuman and Irv McCreight had bass to 4½ lbs. over the weekend on worms and a Doodle Bug rig. Mackerel boats are coming in with nice sacks full of fish for everyone. Jack Blades of Blades Tackle Shop calls these "Hernia Mackerel," as anglers struggle to off load their catches from the party boats.

MARGATE

Mackerel are 2-3 miles off the Margate shore, according to Ralph Stork of Captain Andy's Marina. These fish are in thick and weigh about 2+ lbs. Flounder fishing holds well and short bass are starting to mix in with the flats in the back bays. Larger bass are right under the mackerel schools and Ralph suggests a strip bait rigged with a mack belly for these bass.

AVALON

Flounder and small stripers are the main attraction at the Avalon area. Pat Blithe of the Hodge Podge Shop reported flounder hitting well on bloodworms and sea clams.

WILDWOOD

Bobby Dunham at Dad's Place reported good flounder fishing and many anglers taking 40-50 keepers. Most weigh about a pound but a 2 pounder was weighed in a short time ago. "Tog" or blackfish are showing at the Grassy Sound and Grassy Pole Bridges.

North Shore Reports

GREENPORT

Capt. Dave Green of the "Pooka III" called to report excellent fishing on Friday and Saturday, with catches averaging more than 20 fish per man. The Pooka III has been fishing South Ferry, Cedar Beach and east of the Breakwater.

Art White of White's Tackle reports the best weekend of the year, both weather and fishwise. The "Striper" (Capt. Lamb) had 260 nice flounder. The "Luke" (Capt. Bill Luke) brought in 250 fish. Both the "Wilhelric" and the "Brand X" did as well. Crab Creek, South Ferry, the Greenport Jetty, Deering Harbor, Fanning Point, and off the Orient State Park were the most productive areas. Mussels and clams were the baits most used, and the fish averaged between 1½ and 2 pounds.

SHELTER ISLAND

Shelter Island Marina tells us that Saturday produced great flounder fishing, and while the action tapered off somewhat on Sunday, the weekend was a fine one all in all. The area southeast of buoy 15 and Smith's Cove

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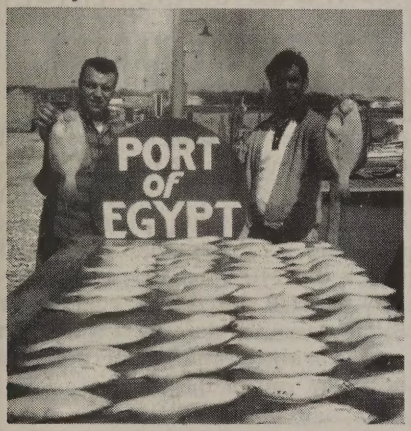
gave up flounder that averaged well over a pound to mussel and hard clam baits.

SOUTHOLD

The Port of Egypt reported some fine flounder catches over the weekend. On Saturday, Al Williams and party of Springfield Gardens, Queens took 165 flounder from Smith's Cove and Crab Creek. On Sunday, Alfred and Peter Holmes of Brooklyn took over a bushel from Smith's Cove. The average fish ran from 1¾ to 2 lbs., and clams, mussels and bloodworms were all doing the job. The first mackerel of the year out here were caught on Sunday near Ram's Head.



Tom Carlson and Tom Quigley, of Brentwood, with 55 flounder, caught at Crab Creek on mussel baits. The fish weighed from 1¼ to 2¾ pounds.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal Coria of Captain Marty's Fishing Station told us that over the weekend, George Swindasz and Dennis Caggiano of Maspeth caught 26 flounder up to 3¾ pounds, south of Nassau Point. T. Arnoff and Otto Mayer, olf New York City, took 30 flounder up to 3 pounds at the Rose Grove. Also fishing the Rose Grove area, Charles Kurtz, Dick Waters and Sal Gaizo of Smithtown took 30 flounder up to 3¼ lbs. Fishing in the South Race, at Buoy 25, Tony and Stan Clark of Shirley caught 40 flounder up to 3 pounds. Mussels were the best bait, but worms were taking their share.

MOUNT SINAI

Ralph's Fishing Station reports the best flounder action is taking place inside the harbor; fish in the 1¼ to 1½ pound class are taking mussel and worm baits. Some fish were taken in the Sound, at the Rocky Point area.

On Saturday, April 7th, Jim Ebbrecht and family took 40 flounder at the Old Bridge, Setauket Harbor. The fish ranged from ¾ to 1½ pounds, and they took mussel baits.

PORT JEFFERSON

The Caraftis Fishing Station reports there are plenty of flounder being caught in the harbor at Old Bridge (Setauket) and the mouth of Setauket Harbor. These fish are averaging ¾ to 1½ pounds. Out in the Sound, larger flounder (1½ to 2 lbs.) are being caught from Miller Place to Wading River, along with a few stray blackfish. Worms are producing best in the harbor, while mussels are doing better outside.

Captain Bill Littlefield of the "Jib III" was out over the weekend, with 5 fares aboard. Fishing the mouth of Setauket Harbor with mussels and sandworms, he averaged 20 flounder per man in the ¾ to 1½ pound class in about 2 hours of fishing.

NORTHPORT

The Chainlocker Bait & Tackle tells us of good flounder action, with 15 fish per man the average catch. These fish are running from ¾ to a pound, with an occasional 2 pounder mixed in, and worms are doing the catching. Striped bass action has picked up off Crab Meadow Beach and at Duck Island. These stripers are averaging 6 pounds, with some going as big as 12 pounds. Worms and bucktails are both taking these bass.

COLD SPRING HARBOR

Vets Fishing Station reports flounder are being caught just about anywhere you drop anchor - both the inner harbor and the outer harbor are producing well. The flounder are running from 1 pound to 1½ pounds, and are taking sandworm baits. Tommy cod from 12 to 14 inches are also being caught along with the flounder.

GLEN COVE

John Cacciola of Glen Cove Sports tells us that Prybil Beach is producing plenty of flounder in the ¾ pound class, with some fish going to a pound (large for this area). Tappen Beach is producing some striped bass action, with a 7 and an 11 pounder weighed in this week. Worms are doing the catching on both the flounder and the bass. Blackfish have started to shoiw at the Bayville Bridge.

CITY ISLAND

Jack Rumpf of Jack's Bait & Tackle reported excellent flounder fishing at Orchard Beach, Hart's Island and Sand Point (Half Moon Beach), with Hart's Island producing especially well. The fish are running from 1¼ to 1½ pounds and are taking sandworms. A few blackfish are beginning to show and Jack is getting in a stock of fiddler crabs for the blackfish fanciers. The open boats "Apache" and "North Star" are doing well on flounders, fishing in the Oyster Bay region.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

DICK ALLEY

WESTCHESTER

Cameron's Boats in New Rochelle reports the best flounder and tommy cod run they've seen in many a year. Just as a for instance, Dan Carinci and his son had just returned with a catch totaling 74 flats, and were on their way to Mt. Vernon for cleaning and cooking. New Rochelle Firefighter Bill Gautiar had an afternoons catch of 44, and Ralph Percopo of Hastings on Hudson had been the only one of the

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areas fishermen to top 50 lbs. of flounder in a day. Hotspot remains in the river, at an area called "The Pass," near the N.Y. Athletic Club.

Fred Archer at Mamaroneck Fishing Station also graded the fishing "exceptional," with the tom cod also showing very strong. The fishing pier has been offering daily catches of 30 and more "tommies" a man. Flounder are averaging around ¾ of a pound.

Dan Catalano of Point Tackle can't get over the fishing enthusiasm, despite the recent cold spell. Flounder are still hitting between Rye and Mamaroneck, and yesterday, one customer came in with 35 keepers, all over a pound. Dan and a friend scored with 25 in an hour and a half of fishing. Tom cod are mixed in with the flatties.

GREENWICH

Russ Van Wynen at the Sportsman's Den didn't receive a striper report all week, which is unusual at this time of year in the Greenwich area. However, flounder action continues to be tops in the Mianus, and inside Greenwich Cove. Bill Carlson boated across to Cold Spring Harbor last week, and came back with 72 nice fat flatties. The herring situation continued hot and cold under the Mianus River Falls,probably due to just that; cold water coming over the dam increasing with recent rains, and affecting the upstream run of the alewives.

STAMFORD

Flounder are being taken in all of the same places they were caught last week, according to Jack Karmonosky of Jack's Bait & Tackle in Stamford. Just for the record, those spots are - Weed Beach, Cove Beach, and Cummings Pier. In addition, a couple of school bass were taken from the channel separating Weed and Cove beaches. Too short to keep, the bucktails were gently removed, and the fish returned to the water. A good way to begin the season.

DARIEN

Bert Van Sciver of the Bait Shop took some time off from his busy boat-readying chores to tell of Guy Wetmore, who took 15 flounder out of Scott's Cove that were "bigger than Quincy." The fish were giants for these parts, scaling from 1½ to 2½ lbs. Guy's secret was crushed mussels, turning out a steady chum until the big ones found their way to the boat. We discussed the mackerel rumors which are just that at this writing, talked about the trout season we've been too busy to try in neighboring N.Y. State, then about the possibility of everything busting loose in the next couple of weeks,which is possible with a slight warming trend.

NORWALK

Calf Pasture Pier continues to be norwalks best fishing hole. This year's Norwalk Striped Bass Club, Jr. Flounder Derby, which comes up soon, should be a record breaker, with the many flounder being caught daily running way above average. On the outside, when the weather warms and calms enough to get out, Sprite Island is still providing the fastest act on to area boatmen. A check with Mola Bros. B & T found Vinny fishing in Quincy, as he's been doing often of late. Mixed bags of flounder and cod can exert a pretty strong magnetic force on any fisherman.

Gloria Borges at the Tackle Box also reported a slowdown due to the weather, with the only real angling taking place at the pier. Once those boats head out, we'll see a record flounder season.

WESTPORT

The Saugatuck River in Westport is pretty much sheltered, and the fish have cooperated, staying inside for the anglers fishing there. Ed Boland of the Westport Tackle Shop told of Dave Morley, who fished the carraige bridge in Setauket and took 30 flats on an incoming tide. Don, John Jr., and Frank Pierwola, of that well reputed fishing family, teamed with Tony Russo and tallied 74 flats, fishing the end of Penfield Reef over the weekend, some scaling over 2 pounds. Lobstermen reported several more blackfish in thier pots in waters around Sunken Island again. With the water temperature up to 46 degrees, they should be biting any day.

BRIDGEPORT

The Bridgeport picture continues to be excellent for flats, whether fishing the beaches or the harbors. Bob's Bait tells of plentiful flats in the area around St. Mary's By The Sea, and South Benson Harbor.

At the Sportsmen's Den action is tops at nearby Stratford beaches, with more catches at Pleasure Beach.

Ted Ferrante at Ted's Bait & Tackle credits many of his customers with scoring on the outside near Penfield Reef.

STRATFORD

Mrs. Fordham of the Housatonic Marina tells of great fishing all along the beaches from Bridgeport to Milford. Recent weather has limited boat customers to fishing the mouth of the river itself. D.J. Murray scored with a dozen in an afternoon, and Carl Soleberg of Burlington, Conn. took ten 1 pound flounder on another day.

NEW HAVEN

Fine flounder and a few bass is the report from Walt Janeczek of Outdoor Sports. Ernie Muntz was the fisherman who captured both the bass and the flounder. The flats alone numbered 128 for a days fishing, with the largest scaling 2½ lbs. The spot was Savin Rock sandbar. Bunkies are in the Thames, which should spell red-hot striper fishing says Walt. We also have a report from Walt of a fish kill at the Atomic Power plant at Waterford. This will be investigated further. Walt begins his radio show on station WELI in New Haven this week., He will give daily fishing reports at 6:25 PM and 7:25 PM.

STONINGTON

From Fayal's Boat Livery we learn of some good cod catches along the Rhode Island shore. Misquammicut Beach, Weekapaug, and the Pink House are all yielding cod from 8 to 15 lbs. In the Stonington area, flounder are running hot and cold, probably due to the weather. Fish are averaging about a pound. There have been several successful days fishing from the bridges.

WATERFORD

Walt Hillyer of Hillyer's B & T reports on a continuing run of winter-over bass, and flounder hitting fast and furious in the river. Cod are being taken in the Race, at Blacks Point, Bartletts Reef, and Valiant Rock.

FRESH WATER

The season opens this weekend in the State of Connecticut, with the official stating time set at 6:00 AM Saturday morning. While the new hatchery should show an improvement in trout fishing over the entire state, with an increase of 50% in the amount of fish stocked, don't expect any miracles. The Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection scheduled the start of their season at a late date again this year, just after the annual school spring vacation. Neighboring Massachusetts and Rhode Island, foreseeing the problem of pre-season poaching, advanced their season a week.

There will be more pressure on the State's fresh waters than ever before, and more posted land surrounding these waters.

Sadly, corn is still legal in Conn., and will contribute to the demise of many of these trout before the season ends.

It amazes me how the State can spend so much money and put such dedicated efforts into the raising of fish, and then neglect to move at top speed to protect those very fish once they're out of the hatchery trucks and into the waters. Some speedy effective legislation is badly needed in this State.

Fishing will be better than last year, but it could be so much better yet.

A Connecticut resident license costs $4.35 - Good Luck!

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KINGSTON

Trout fishing was pretty good over the weekend at streams in the Kingston area, according to Roy's Bait & Tackle. A favorite bait is called the "icicle," a frozen silvery baitfish taken from the Mohawk in the winter. Rigged on a hook through the mouth and out the side, it can be deadly on trout. Red wigglers or a nightcrawler are also good baits for these early season browns and occasional brookies.

WAPPINGERS FALLS

High water in the Fishkill Creek and Upper Wappingers has slowed the trout fishing but some are being caught on worms. The B & M Bait Shop reported some striper action on the river.

VERPLANCK

The Oyster Beds are the best bet for anglers new to the Hudson. Charlie White of Ace & Charlie's can tell you where to go for bass, perch and catfish. Stripers are hitting well at Crugers, Oscawanna and in Tompkins Cove on bloodworms and sandworms. Bucktails too are effective fished from the shore or from a boat.

CROTON POINT

Stripers to 8 lbs. have been taking worm baits and bucktails from along the railroad tracks and at Tellers Point, reported the Croton Bait & Tackle. The spearing seem to have left the Croton Bay and it's too soon for the herring to make an appearance, so worms may be the choice for a few days.

OSSINING

A number of good catches were reported to Mike Girvall who somehow got wrangled into watching the shop at Tony's Bait & Tackle while Tony was out looking for a bass to hang on his yellow bucktail. Charlie Mealing took a nice fish of about 4 lbs. but Big Mike Merrolla had the best on Friday night, a 9 lb. bass. Casting from shore along the RR tracks is the favored location.

FORT LEE

Ed Grasder of the Outdoorsmen reported some bass at the Alpine Dock in the Palisades Interstate Park, but most fishermen are rigged for catfish, white perch, eels and tommy cod. Ronnie Ingold has been getting bass to 25 lbs. in his shad nets, so the bigger stripers are there - try for them.

STRIPER TOURNAMENT

A last reminder to all of you bass boys: The Kings Bay Striped Bass Club of Brooklyn is holding its first Striped Bass Invitational Tournament on June 22nd and 23rd. In my opinion this will be one of the biggest and best handled tournaments ever seen in this area. Well worth looking into. Entry blanks will be available at all of the official weigh-in stations: Freeport, Charvin Fishing Station; Atlantic Beach, Henning's Fishing Station; Sheephead Bay, Stella Maris; Staten Island, Mansons Marina; Highlands, N.J., Kesgals Snug Harbor Marina. All of the Mays Department Stores will also carry a good supply of entry blanks and rules. The fishing hours will be 5 AM to 6 PM each day. No professional captains or mates are eligible but you may charter a boat yourself. None of the Kings Bay Club members or their families are eligible. This can be in your favor as most of the hot bass fishermen in our area come from this club. There will be over $600.00 in prizes, which will include top quality tackle and trophies, also a special award donated by the Mays Dept. Store chain. If you are unable to obtain entry blanks in your area, write to the Kings Bay Striper Club, 439 Avenue U, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223. Captain's Night will be held at 8:00 PM, June 22nd, at the Baron DeKalb K.C., Grand Ballroom, 3000 Emmons Ave., Sheepshead Bay. All present and late entries are welcome. There will be refreshments, a display of prizes and a very complete and informative striped bass clinic. On display will be all the most up-to-date lures and equipment, along with very worthwhile informative talks given by some of the top boys in the club. Guests that will attaend the Captain's Night are Jerry Kenny of the Daily News, Sal Cestaro of the Jersey Anglers News, Bill Wisner of the N.Y. Post, Fred Walcyk, editor of the Jersey Anglers News, Capt. John Kull, famous striped bass skipper, and yours truly. One last point of interest: If you never saw a bass of over 60 lbs., the club will have one on display at the Captain's Night affair.

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J.F.K. Airport	+0	26
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	-0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
JONES INLET	-0	19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Oligo Island	+2	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0	38
West Great South Bay	+2	10
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
East Great South Bay	+3	44
MORICHES INLET	-0	56
Smiths Point	+3	28
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potuak Point	+3	35
SHINNECOCK INLET	-0	50
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
WILLETS POINT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	12:01	12:24
Fri.	12:21	12:47
Sat.	12:52	1:18
Sun.	1:29	1:57
Mon.	2:13	2:42
Tues.	2:58	3:31
Wed.	3:51	4:25
Thur.	4:48	5:24

	H.	M.
Little Neck Bay	-0	10
Execution Light	-0	06
Manhasset Bay	-0	01
Hempstead Harbor	-0	11
City Island	-0	03
Rye Beach	-0	28

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
BRIDGEPORT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	----------	12:19
Fri.	12:30	12:58
Sat.	1:10	1:41
Sun.	1:52	2:24
Mon.	2:37	3:17
Tues.	3:29	4:08
Wed.	4:26	5:04
Thur.	5:25	5:58

	H.	M.
Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	-0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jeff Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	-0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	08
Herod Point	-0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	-0	20
Truman Beach	-0	42

TIDES: B.I. SOUND
NEW LONDON STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	10:26	10:33
Fri.	11:05	11:14
Sat.	11:48	11:53
Sun.	----------	12:35
Mon.	12:40	1:29
Tues.	1:29	2:25
Wed.	2:31	3:21
Thur.	3:28	4:15

	H.	M.
Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	-0	14
Fort Pond Bay	-0	29
Montauk Inlet	-0	25
Montauk Point	-1	13

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